



The Tenth International Youth Bowling Tournament is underway

The ambiance could be described as nearly riotous as 192 irrepressible youngsters of all ages from six nations accompanied by family, friends, coaches and chaperones filled the Eagle Bowling Palace last night for the inauguration ceremonies of the Tenth International Youth Bowling Palace.

Master of Ceremonies Ruben Garcia did manage to quiet down the gathering as event organizers Jacobo and Lili Arends took center lanes to welcome all the fifty-one teams participating this year, which includes twenty-nine teams from Aruba and a large contingent from Puerto Rico. Other countries and islands represented in this year's competitions include St. Croix of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Curacao, and St. Maarten of the Netherlands Antilles, and kids from Georgia and Washington, D.C. playing for the United States.

Young Micherla Barges sang the National Anthem of Aruba and the opening proceeded with a surprise awards ceremony for individuals that have contributed their time every year towards the success of the international competition since its inception. Rita Lopez-Henriquez, Sigrid Torres, Renaldo Somaza of Victoria Bottling and Ruben Garcia were all awarded beautiful hand painted plaques for their support of this youth event. In addition, organizers from each country that put together the delegations and accompanied them to Aruba were awarded special gifts from the Lili and Jacobo. The opening event ended with the first ball of the tournament thrown by Jason Odor of Aruba. Unfortunately, it wasn't a strike. The Eagle Bowling Palace will be a beehive of bowling action all week long as the teams compete for trophies in the Pee Wee division for ages six to ten years; Junior for ages eleven to fifteen; and the Juvenile division for ages sixteen to twenty-three.

In addition to the competitions, various activities have been arranged for the participants including a closing awards ceremony during a day at De Palm Island on Saturday, July 16. Good luck to all our participating youth, we are rooting for the Arubian team with the cutest name, "Split Happens!"